

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

**I. Status of Claims**

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12, 13 and 16-18 were pending with claims 1, 8 and 12 being independent, and Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1, 2, 4-6, 12, 13 and 16-18.

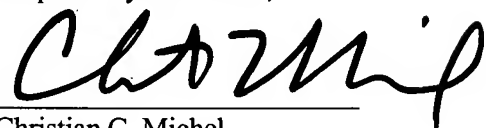
By this amendment, claims 8-10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, the outstanding rejection of claims 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is now moot, and all the remaining claims are allowed.

**II. Conclusion**

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance and notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Should any/additional fees be required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 18-2220.

Respectfully Submitted,



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